

same colour. This was thought to be caused by a small "Branchiopode," *Artemia salina*. The examinations of M. Dunal found however that this little animal, though abounding, was perfectly colourless, or rather white than red; and continued observation has shown him that the colouring matter proceeded from a minute *Protococcus*, to which he has applied the name of *salinus*. The orange red again, or rosy colour, he found produced by another plant, to which the name of *Hæmatococcus salinus* has been applied; but at the same time, he observes, that the *Protococcus* may turn out to be only the young state of the other. Among the "Scientific Intelligence" is recorded the discovery of *Carex leporina*, Linn., Loch-Nagar, by Mr. Dickie, of Aberdeen.

Works in the Press.

A History of the British Zoophytes. By George Johnston, M.D.,
Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, &c.

THE object of the present work is to describe every species of this interesting class of animals ascertained to inhabit the British Islands. The first part of the volume is devoted to the history of zoophytology, and to details on the structure, physiology, and classification of zoophytes; and the second contains the description of the species.

We are perfectly convinced, that this volume will not only be an acceptable one to scientific naturalists, but to all those who, through various channels, have heard of the discoveries relating to this class of beings in the memoirs of Trembley, Baker, and Ellis. The work of Ellis on the British Corallines, published in the year 1755, has been long out of print, and is now extremely rare. But the present author, with a complete knowledge of everything that has been previously written on the subject, has given correct details regarding all the species hitherto discovered from personal observation; and his known talents leave it little doubtful that this work will in future be a standard one in all that regards the Natural History of British Zoophytes.

Since the publication of Ellis's Essay on Corallines in 1755, no separate work has appeared in illustration of the history of British zoophytes. In the mean time, a much more accurate knowledge of the structure and habits of these remarkable productions has been attained, and many curious species have been discovered in our seas, the notices of which lie scattered through numerous volumes of a miscellaneous nature, often very difficult to procure, and not attainable without considerable expense. To collect into one volume, of

a convenient size and moderate price, these discoveries ; to systematise the whole ; and arrange the species after a more natural method, has been the object of the author of the present work. In the plates, figures, of the natural size and magnified, of nearly every species, are given,—the figures drawn from nature expressly for the volume ; and from the care bestowed upon them it is confidently believed that they will be found accurate and faithful representations of their objects.

This work will be published in a form so as to range with Yarrell's British Birds and Fishes, and will be accompanied with numerous wood cuts and engravings.

PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

October 10, 1837, R. Owen, Esq., in the Chair.—Mr. Gould called the attention of the Meeting to a collection of Birds from Australia and the adjacent islands, belonging to the Raptorial Order, and upon which he proceeded to offer the following observations.

“ My attention during the last few days having been directed to the Raptorial Birds of Australia and the adjacent islands, and my own collection from those parts being particularly rich in the birds of this order, I am induced to lay before the Society a slight sketch of all the species found in that portion of the globe, and to exhibit to the Meeting a few which I conceive to be now for the first time made public. From our limited knowledge, however, of this vast continent, my observations will more particularly refer to the birds of the southern parts of Australia and Van Diemen's Land, these being the districts which up to the present time have been most extensively explored.

“ Most of the forms now exhibited will be found to bear a striking resemblance to those inhabiting Europe ; indeed, the similarity is so strikingly obvious as to leave no doubt of the influence of temperature on the form of animals.

“ A remarkable deficiency, and that a very important one, is the total absence of any of the *Vulturidæ*, or of any form by which this family might be represented. It is true that a bird has been described by Dr. Latham under the name of ‘ New Holland Vulture ;’ but this bird is now almost universally admitted to belong to a totally different order, that of the *Rasores*. I have placed an example of this singular species on the table, an examination of which will enable any member present (who has not before had an opportunity of